STAC Workshop Development

Assessing the Chesapeake Bay Forage Base: Existing Data and Research Priorities

Bruce Vogt - Workshop Steering Committee Member

Fisheries GIT Meeting

June 4, 2014

Overview

- Background
- Workshop Proposal Process
- Workshop Objectives
- Workshop Products
- Forage Definition
- Planning

Background

- New Agreement Outcome

  Forage Fish Outcome: *Continually improve the capacity to understand the role of forage fish populations in the Chesapeake Bay. By 2016, develop a strategy for assessing the forage fish base available as food for predatory species in the Chesapeake Bay.*

- December 2013 Fisheries GIT Meeting
  - Discussions: Defining forage? What data is available?

Proposal Process

- Chesapeake Bay Program's Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) annual RFP for workshop proposals
- Geared toward CBP partners and committees
- Response to strong interest and importance of forage discussions at the December 2013 Fisheries GIT meeting…

Proposal Process

Formed Diverse Steering Committee:

Chris Bonzek (VIMS)
Nancy Butowski (MD DNR)
Pat Campfield (ASMFC)
Jack Frye (CBC)
Natalie Gardner (STAC)
Bill Goldsborough (CBF)
Joe Grist (VMRC)
Ed Houde (CBL)*

Tom Ihde (Versar/NOAA; STAC)*
Lee Karrh (MD DNR)
Rochelle Seitz (VIMS)
Bruce Vogt (NOAA)
Emilie Franke (staff)
Andrew Turner (staff)

**denotes workshop chair*

Proposal Process

- Steering Committee submitted a workshop proposal according to STAC guidelines
- STAC reviewed and assigned awards at their March 2014 STAC meeting
- Forage Workshop awarded full funding

Workshop Objectives

1. Identify forage groups of the Chesapeake Bay that are critical to assess for fisheries management
2. Identify existing data for these groups
3. Identify data gaps
4. Develop strategies to improve the quantification of the Chesapeake Bay forage base

Workshop Products

- Literature review (pre-workshop) – annotated list and summary

- Data review (pre-workshop) – compiled list of identified data sets with a description and potential application of each

- Clearly define "forage base"—a prioritized list of the species or species groups comprising it

Workshop Products

- Recommendations of approaches to use existing data to develop a suite of Bay-specific **indices or metrics to quantify the forage base**, including specific strategies to adapt these metrics as new information becomes available.

- Identification of high priority research needs and monitoring gaps that would contribute to understanding the trophic transfer between forage species and their predators

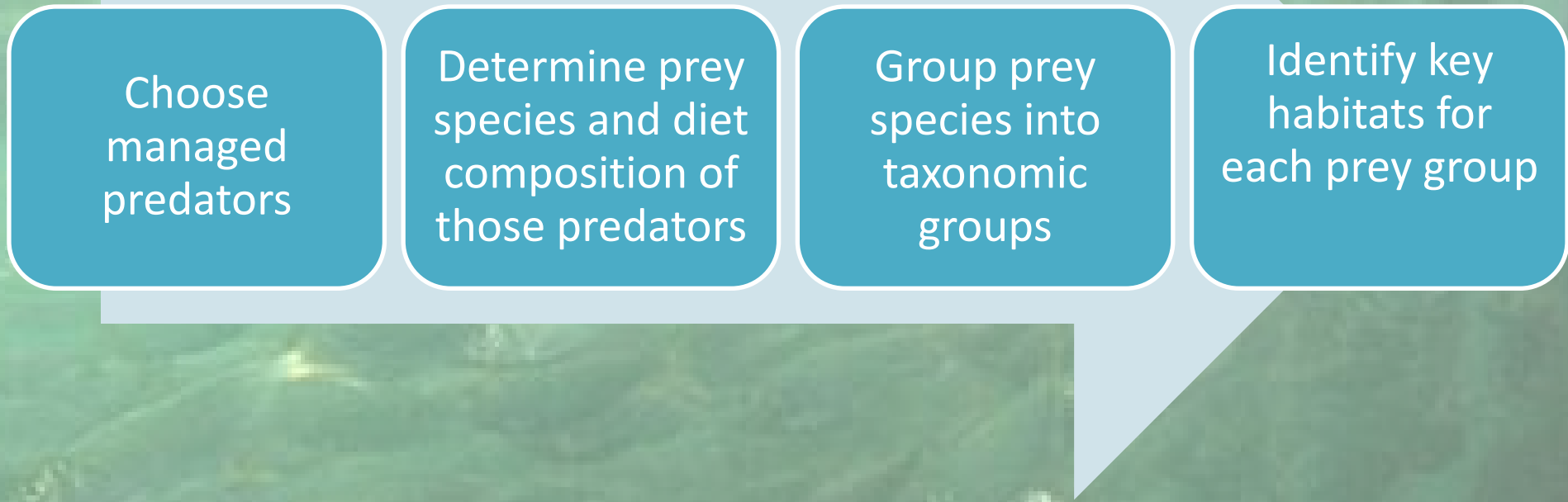
- Recommendations on how to begin addressing the highest priority research needs

Forage Definition

- Develop criteria or process to define “forage” in order to:
  - focus the workshop
  - ensure workshop outcomes are useful to managers

Forage Definition

- Trial process to identify forage species for workshop focus



Planning

- Pre-workshop products
  - Data Review
  - Literature Review
  - Proposed forage definition/criteria
- November 12-13, 2014 at Chesapeake Biological Lab in Solomons, MD
- 25 workshop participants TBD

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Science. Restoration. Partnership.

QUESTIONS…

Steering Committee

- *Chris Bonzek* – Fisheries Data Analyst at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science with extensive knowledge of the various Virginia and coastal surveys and leader of VIMS diet lab.
- *Nancy Butowski* – Program Manager of Fishery Management Plans and Fish Passage at MD DNR; extensive knowledge and support of SFGIT work.
- *Pat Campfield* – Director of the Fisheries Science Program at the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) and SFGIT member; knowledge of Chesapeake Bay fisheries science needs and application of science to management.
- *Jack Frye* – Virginia Director of the Chesapeake Bay Commission leading policy development and legislative outreach and SFGIT member; experience in conservation, recreation and nutrient reduction.
- *Natalie Gardner* – STAC Coordinator and contact for workshop
- *Bill Goldsborough* – Fisheries Director for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and SFGIT member; extensive background policy and regional fisheries management.
- *Joe Grist* – Deputy Chief of the Fisheries Management Division of the Virginia Marine Resource Commission (VMRC); Chair of the Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee and applying science to management.

Steering Committee

- *Ed Houde**– Fisheries Scientist at University of Maryland Chesapeake Biological Laboratory with extensive expertise in fisheries oceanography, recruitment, population dynamics and ecosystem management and a member of the Lenfest Forage Fish Task Force.
- *Tom Ihde** – Member of STAC, fisheries ecosystem modeler; background in fisheries stock assessment.
- *Lee Karrh* – Chief of Living Resource Assessment Division at MD DNR, Chair of Chesapeake Bay Program's SAV Workgroup, and Habitat GIT member; background in biology.
- *Rochelle Seitz* – Runs the Community Ecology Laboratory at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science focused on benthic ecology; current research includes benthic predator-prey relationships and food web dynamics.
- *Bruce Vogt* - Manages NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office's Ecosystem Science and Synthesis, Coordinator for the SFGIT; background in benthic ecology and resource management.
- *Emilie Franke* – Staff; Chesapeake Research Consortium, SFGIT Staffer
- *Andrew Turner* – Staff; SFGIT Support at NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office